THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has formulated a draft National Tribal Policy, 2007 in order to address the issues concerning tribals *viz.* lower Human Development Index, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resource base, persistent threats of eviction from their natural habitat, exclusion from mainstream society, inequality in distribution of wealth and opportunities, non-empowerment, and inadequate implementation of Constitutional Provisions, and to ensure their active and informed participation in development. Action has already been initiated for finalization of the draft Policy as per procedure.

(c) The draft National Tribal Policy deals with various issues related to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in a wide and comprehensive manner, and aims to strengthen regulatory protection and empower the tribal communities; to improve tribal human development index through various means of socio-economic empowerment; to encourage and protect tribal traditions, culture and sports; to ensure access to privileges including focus on Development of primitive tribal groups; to conserve and protect the intellecutal property regime of STs etc. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognises and vests forest rights and occuption in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

Identification of tribal district across the country

266. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain tribal districts across the country with a view to advance women's literacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating those that have been identified in Orissa;

(c) whether Government have initiated various schemes to bring them into the economic and educational mainstream at par with the rest of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Ministry has been implementing an exclusive 100% Central Sector Scheme *viz.* "Educational Complex in Low Pockets for Development of Women's Literacy in Tribal Areas" for the improvement of literacy among Scheduled Tribe girls through Non-Governmental Organizations/autonomous socieites of the State Government. Under the scheme, the Government had identified 134 districts in the country having literacy rate among Scheduled Tribe women less than 10% as per 1991 census, as low literacy districts in 11 States. This includes 10 districts of Orissa *viz.* Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Baleshwar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput and Ganjam. During 11th Plan period, action has been taken to revise the scheme and re-identify the districts on the basis of ST population and ST female literacy as per 2001 census.

Under this scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance @ Rs. 9000/- per ST girl per annum for free schooling, boarding and lodging, uniforms, books, food, etc. Besides this, the organization running the educational complex is also required to impart

training in craft/vocational education and practical training in agriculture, horticulture, poultry and related subjects.

Education and employment for poor women

†267. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been formulated or proposed to be formulated by Government to provide education and opportunities of employment for the welfare of poor, widowed and destitute women;

(b) if so, the details of the centres where these programmes are running, State-wise;

(c) the number of its women beneficiaries during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the funds allotted during the current Five Year Plan and the State-wise details of the funds utilized till date out of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The scheme of STEP aims to provide employment to poor assetless women in traditional sectors by upgrading skills and other support services.

Swablamban Scheme (which stands transferred to States with effect from 1.4.2006) also provided training and skill development to women to facilitate their employment.

The Scheme of Swayhamsidha provides training for income generation activities to women beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of centres and beneficiaries are available in the Annual Reports of the Ministry and also on the Ministry's *website www.wcd.nic.in.*

(d) The Budget Outlay for the Annual Plan 2007-08 is Rs. 20.00 crore for the STEP Scheme and Rs. 50.90 crore for Swayamsidha Scheme. The fund utilization will be available at the end of the financial year of the Annual Plan 2007-08.

Female foeticide

268. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVLEOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of female foeticide during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to launch Palana Yojana to prevent the increasing incidents of female foeticide;

(c) if so, the outline of this proposed Yojana.

(d) whether Government have proposed to set up Palana centres in each district of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be set up and made operational?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.